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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

MORNING DAILY

Morning Daily founded 1891
Weekly (now Evening Daily) 1887

CHARLOTTETOWN, CANADA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1915

(\$3.50 Per Year (delivered) in advance
\$2.50 per year by mail in advance.

\$150,000 FIRE IN ST. JOHN, N.B.

Thorne's Big Hardware Store Destroyed. Neighboring Stores in Danger but Fire now Under Control.

(Special to The Guardian.)
ST JOHN, Dec. 22.—Fire broke out at nine o'clock to-night in the big wholesale and retail hardware establishment of W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd., and at the time of writing it looks as if the whole building would be destroyed. The fire started on the third floor of the five storey building on Market Square, where the hardware department is situated. The store was thronged with Christmas shoppers, but there was no panic. Later the fire spread to the ammunition and cartridge department and the noise of exploding cartridges was heard several blocks away.

The Western Union Telegraph Company building adjoining is in danger, but to now, 11.35 p.m., the flames have been kept from it. The fire is spreading in the back of the big stores on King Street and has already reached the back of T. McAvity & Co.'s hardware store. Manchester, Robertson & Allison's dry goods establishment, the largest of the kind east of Montreal, is also in danger in some of the departments in the rear. It is impossible to estimate the damage at Thorne's and at this time insurance estimates cannot be secured.

1.45 a.m.—The Thorne fire is now under control. The loss is about \$150,000; insurance between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

French Capture 1,200 Germans

(Special to The Guardian.)
PARIS, Dec. 22.—A announcement was made by the War Office to-day that 1,200 Germans had been captured in the operations at Hartmanns-Weilerkopf which have enlarged the French positions to an appreciable extent. The statement follows:—

"There were few events of importance last night. In the Vosges the attack delivered yesterday by our troops made it possible for us to enlarge appreciably our positions on the east slope of Hartmanns-Weilerkopf. The number of Germans made prisoners is now 1,200, of whom 21 are officers. They belong to six different regiments."

CONDENSED ADS. TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

ONE CENT per word each insertion for advertising in this column. Cash must accompany orders. Minimum charges, twenty-five cents.

PRIME SAUSAGES ALWAYS ON hand at Holman's, Charlottetown, 3797-11-6mf.

TO LET.—A LARGE BRIGHT BED-room on ground floor suitable for sitting-room. Apply 84 Hillboro St. 4068-11-25mf

WANTED.—A BLACK FEMALE FOX to mate with a Dalton dog on halves. Apply 26 Elm Avenue. 5525-12-4mf

TRY OUR HOME-MADE POTTED meat, hams, bacon, lard, and the famous Saunome sausages. Saunders, Newsom & Co., Market Building. 5734-12-10mlm.

MACKIE & NELSON HAVE EVERY-thing you want in the feed line and their prices are right. Try them for hay, oats, bran, middlings, cornmeal, cracked corn, oilcake, cotton seed, molasses, etc. Office and warehouse opposite Davis & Fraser, Grafton Street East, Phone 441J.

STRAYED.—ONE STEER, TWO AND a half years, colour red and white. Information that will lead to his recovery will be rewarded. N. McLaren, Forest Hill. 6276-12-23mf

Minard's Liniment cures garget in cows

GERMAN POWDER PLANT BLOWN UP, TOWN DAMAGED

(Special to The Guardian.)
LONDON, Dec. 22.—According to advices to the Amsterdam Telegraaf, forwarded by Reuters correspondent, a powder factory and several ammunition depots at Munster, Westphalia, have been blown up. Great damage was done to the town, the newspaper adds. (Munster is in Germany, near the Belgian border.)

Bulgarians and Greeks Again Clash

(Special to The Guardian.)
LONDON, Dec. 22.—A delayed despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Athens last night reported that the Bulgarian detachment from Monastir crossed the Greek border in the direction of Koriza and clashed with the Greek garrison. Twenty Greeks were wounded in the encounter, it was stated.

LIBERAL CONFERENCE CONCLUDED ITS LABOURS

OTTAWA, Dec. 22.—The Liberal conference concluded yesterday with the announcement that the delegates attending, plus some others, will constitute a permanent national advisory council. They will build a platform. An official statement issued at the close of the conference admits that the question of extending the parliamentary term was discussed but "only incidentally."

The matter, it is added, "will be left for parliament itself to decide." This is not understood here as meaning that the conference reached no conclusion upon the main business for which it was summoned. There are indications that the anti-election element in the party is becoming stronger daily and that the party leaders will hardly be able to ignore so strong a factor. This element was represented in some strength at the conference and its views were placed forcibly on record. A complete vote-facile officially set forth in black and white by the conference was hardly to be expected in view of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's refusal to accept the government's proposal, but it is believed that an extension arrangement will be reached when parliament meets and a war election avoided. The suggestion that the Canadian parliament be extended for eight months, as in England, comes from neither side here, and would not be acceptable to the government.

The conditions in Canada and the Mother Country are not on all fours, and an eight months' extension here would not be the same thing as an eight months' extension, easily renewable, in Great Britain. The Liberal conference has not changed the political situation so far as the official statement goes, but the actual outcome of the conference seems likely to be better than is promised in the statement. The programme of study mapped out for the new advisory committee, takes in the work now being performed by the economic and development commission.

THE WEATHER, TEMPERATURE, TIDE, MOON, ETC.

(Special to The Guardian)

TORONTO, December 23.—Maritime: Variable winds, fair to-day, light snow or rain in some localities on Friday.

THE WEATHER.—Yesterday was fine, cool and clear. The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 26 degrees above zero. At nine o'clock yesterday morning it registered 26 degrees above zero; at nine last night, 23 degrees above. The coldest of the previous night was 26 degrees above zero.

The tide will be high this afternoon at 12.14 and tomorrow at 1.22; it will be high tonight at 11.28 and tomorrow at 12.

The sun sets this afternoon at 4.18 and tomorrow at 4.19; it rises tomorrow morning and Saturday at 7.40.

The moon rises this evening at 6.17. There was a full moon on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 8.52 a. m.

The last quarter of the moon will be on Wednesday, Dec. 29th at 5.59 a. m.

The length of today will be eight hours and thirty-nine minutes.

Minard's Liniment cures Rheumatism

DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT IN THE WAR SITUATION

Russian Occupation of Varna Regarded as one of the Greatest Moves of War. German Defeat in Vosges with Loss of 1,200 Prisoners Indicates Growing Aggressiveness of Allies. Socialist Party in Germany Divided, 21 Members having Seceded.

(Special to The Guardian.)
LONDON, Dec. 22.—The second American note to Austria shared the leading positions in late New York newspapers with reports of Russian successes at Varna, Bulgaria's chief seaport. The note appeared here too late for extended editorial comment, but the headlines reflected the general opinions. The note was couched in a sharper tone and all discussion about details was swept aside. No further discussion appears possible. Up to a late hour there was no official confirmation of the report of Russian occupation of Varna, which if true is, according to London editors, one of the greatest moves of the present war. The same critics believe that the Russian assault on Varna is a prelude to a new effort for Constantinople, which is less than 150 miles distant.

On the western front the success of the French at Hartmanns-Weilerkopf, in the Vosges, is regarded in Allied capitals as not only a brilliant but useful operation at a point where the situation has been most difficult for many months. The number of prisoners is the largest on the west front since the great Champagne-Loos offensive. The English public takes much pride in the manner in which Australia has taken the withdrawal from the Gallipoli Peninsula. This attitude is summed up in an Australian newspaper in the words of Lincoln's Gettysburg speech, "We resolve that these dead shall not die in vain and that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom." The most important developments of the evening in Great Britain were an appeal by leading bankers to the nation to

unite in the task of meeting the war's financial requirements and the speech by David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, at Newcastle to the trade union officials of the country, appealing to them for assistance in obtaining 80,000 skilled workers which he demanded in his speech in parliament a few days ago. Reports of the Reichstag discussions have aroused some interest in Entente capitals, where the Socialists' attitude is being closely followed, many believing that some sections of the Socialist group in Germany may prove to be the ultimate channel of peace negotiations. A Copenhagen despatch declares that the Socialist party in Germany is now completely divided, twenty-one members having seceded and formed a new party with an independent organization.

A MILLION MORE MEN WANTED

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Moving in the House of Commons a new vote for an additional million men, Premier Asquith made a general survey of the ever-widening theatre of war, and the increasing responsibility placed on this country for providing arms and men. Great Britain, he said, already has a fighting force in the various theatres of 1,250,000 men, and as the wastage is enormous the country must aim at getting every man of military age who is physically qualified. The Premier pointed out that what services of these men, deductions must be made before it was possible to arrive at the recruitable maximum which the country must seek to obtain. He regretted he was unable to give the results of the Earl of Derby's recruiting system. The figures had not reached him until last night, and the inference to be drawn required careful attention. Applications to enlist under the Derby plan had been made from distant Hong Kong and Rhodesia. "This is a commentary on the lethargy of those at home who have not

responded to the call," he said. "Let those who have hung back, for good or bad reasons, seize the opportunity even now of following the example patriotically set them by the great mass of the people." Turning to the Dardanelles campaign, Premier Asquith said: "It was with deep reluctance that we sanctioned the withdrawal, especially from Anzac, where our Australian and New Zealand kinsmen won undying fame. This withdrawal did not involve withdrawal from Gallies (at the tip of Gallipoli Peninsula), where our combined naval and military forces commanded the entrance to the straits. Everything was brought off, except some stores and six guns, which were destroyed." The Premier said the men withdrawn, after a short and much needed rest, would proceed to a new theatre of operations. He paid warm tribute to Generals Monro and Birdwood. Referring to operations on the Franco-Belgian front, the Premier complimented Field Marshal French and his successor in command, Sir Douglas Haig. He continued:

"A fortnight ago a most important military conference was held in Paris, attended by representatives of the staffs of France, Russia, Italy and the United Kingdom. The leading strategic problems were fully discussed and certain most important conclusions reached with absolute unanimity. So far as the war as a whole went, Mr. Asquith said, it might be that at this or that moment what could be called the superficial facts of the campaign seemed to grow less. "But the fundamental facts, the facts that in the long run matter, are steadily and growingly on our side," he continued. "There has been in this war an abundance of errors in calculation, but they have not been confined to our side. "So far as we in this country are concerned—and I know all our Allies are the same—our will has never wavered for a moment, while our fighting resources, both in men and in material, become every month more ample in quantity and better mobilized and organized for the purposes of the campaign."

TOO TOUGH A JOB



Mr. J. J. Hughes (anxious to wipe out his past record on the Subsidy Question) "What's happened to all the Hughligans?"

BIG KRUPP FACTORY AT CONSTANTINOPLE DESTROYED BY AIRMEN

(Special to The Guardian.)
COPENHAGEN, Dec. 22.—The National Tiden ascribes to a trustworthy Dane, coming from Constantinople, the statement that the Krupp's big new ammunition factory, near Constantinople, has been completely destroyed by British airmen, and also that all coastal steamers have been sunk and that Scutari, in Asia Minor, is overcrowded with people, who are dying from lack of treatment. Diplomatic conversations are in progress in Athens, with reference to Bulgarian troops accompanying the Germans into Macedonia.

More Wounded Soldiers Return

(Special to The Guardian.)
ST JOHN, Dec. 22.—One hundred and eighteen officers and men of the Canadian overseas forces, ill or unfit for further service for the present at least, arrived in St John on the steamer Pretorian last night and were landed this morning. The Maritime Province men are being held here until they can be discharged or otherwise dealt with and all the others left by special train at ten o'clock for Quebec.

SETTLEMENT OF LUSITANIA CASE IS POSTPONED

(Special to The Guardian.)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Full settlement of the Lusitania case, including reparation for the lives of the American victims, which it became known to-day, recently was near, has been postponed by the dismissal of the German naval and military attaches and the American demands on Austria-Hungary, as a result of the sinking of the Ancona.

Consideration of the state of public opinion in Germany because of these two acts of the American government, according to reliable information received here, has caused officials in Berlin to decide that such a settlement as might be satisfactory to the United States would not now meet with popular approval in Germany.

NO BREAK WITH AUSTRIA IF U. S. KEEPS COOL

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—A despatch from Berlin via Amsterdam to-day to a news agency here, says: "There will be no break between Austria-Hungary and the United States, if Washington keeps cool. Count Stephen Tisza, next to Emperor Francis Joseph, the strongest man in the dual monarchy, gave this assurance in the ministerial palace at Budapest. "To think of trouble between Austria-Hungary and the United States is sheer nonsense," declared the iron man of the monarchy emphatically. Count Tisza had just returned from a conference with the emperor at Vienna.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 22.—The reply of the United States to Austria's note on the destruction of the Italian Liner Ancona declares that the official admission of the Austrian Admiralty that the liner was torpedoed after she had stopped, and while passengers still were aboard, alone, is sufficient for the American demand for disavowal, reparation and punishment of the submarine commander. Secretary Lansing's second note, already probably in the hands of the Austrian foreign minister, and made public here to-day, renews the details, to which Austria referred in her reply to the first communication, are in no way essential to the discussion. It emphasizes that the continuance of good relations between the two countries depends upon the action of the Austrian Government.

VON HINDENBURG'S ARMY DEFEATED

Germans Buried Cannon and Abandoned Immense Quantities of Stores. Their Losses Heavy.

(Special to The Guardian.)
NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—A cable to the Herald from London this morning says: "The correspondent of the Daily Express telegraphs from Geneva: "The German offensive of the Riga-Dvinsk front has completely failed. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg has been forced to retire the Russian counter-attacks, after burying his cannon and abandoning an enormous amount of material. "The Germans, unable to cross the Dvina, have suffered very heavily. Five German divisions have retreated on Tukum, against which the Russians are advancing. A sanguinary battle is in progress near Ukull."

SIR ARCHIBALD MURRAY SUCCEEDS SIR CHARLES MONRO

(Special to The Guardian.)
LONDON, Dec. 22.—Lieut.-General Sir Archibald Murray has been appointed to succeed Sir Charles Monro, British commander in the Dardanelles, says an official statement this afternoon.

BILL PASSED PROLONGING LIFE OF PARLIAMENT

(Special to The Guardian.)
LONDON, Dec. 22.—The House of Commons to-day passed a Bill prolonging the life of the present parliament. An attempt was made to introduce an amendment, the effect of which would be to bury the Plurality Voting Bill, but on the plea of Mr. Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies, the motion was withdrawn. The Bill passed without division.

Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria

COMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

ONE CENT per word each insertion for advertising in this column. Cash must accompany orders. Minimum charges, twenty-five cents.

**There will be a Christmas Tree and entertainment in the North River Church on Thursday evening, December 23rd, at 7.30. Silver collection taken at the door. 6261-12-22mf

**Reserve Wednesday, 29th December, for basket social in Bonshaw Courthouse. Admission 15 cents. Ladies with baskets free. Proceeds for Red Cross and Patriotic purposes. 6275-12-23mf

**Gifts for soldiers. Reliable English compasses at \$1.50 and \$1.75 each. Also serviceable fountain pens from \$1 up. Both of these articles will prove of very great service. G. F. Hutcheson, Optician. 6287-12-21mf

**NOTICE—Would the parties (who are known) and who took the wagon from Mr. Archibald's field, Clyde River, return same within five days and save further trouble. Jas. McLean. 6254-12-22mf

**I have a splendid assortment of Gold and Gold-filled eye-glass chains; also automatic eye-glass holders, in Gold-filled, Silver and Gun Metal. Just the gift for someone who wears eye-glasses. G. F. Hutcheson, Optician. 6262-12-22mf

**We sell pressed hay and straw, black and white oats, wheat, bran, middlings, oil cake, cotton seed, molasses, cornmeal, cracked corn, cracked oats, etc., at lowest cash prices. MacKie & Nelson, opposite Davis & Fraser, Grafton Street East, Phone 441J. 6270-12-23mf

Minard's Liniment cures Neuralgia.